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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Venice Family Clinic Opens the *Ruth Ziegler and Jack Skirball Dental Clinic*
in Santa Monica**

A dental clinic for low-income and uninsured patients
at the Simms/Mann Health and Wellness Center

August 3rd, 2011 Venice, California

Venice Family Clinic celebrated the opening of its first dental clinic last night in Santa Monica. Jane Harman, former Congressmember and Director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, was the featured speaker and spoke of the exceptional services provided by Venice Family Clinic and the importance of the new dental clinic. Other speakers included Dr. Uri Herscher, President of the Skirball Cultural Center, Venice Family Clinic Dental Director Dr. Nicole Thompson-Marvel, and Assemblymember Julia Brownley, who presented a resolution from the California State Assembly.

Board member Bill Flumenbaum announced that the new clinic was being named in honor of philanthropist Ruth Ziegler, who made an endowment gift to the clinic and Jack Skirball, filmmaker and rabbi, who established the Skirball Foundation. The Skirball Foundation and Ruth Ziegler each gave \$1,000,000 gifts to Venice Family Clinic.

The dental clinic is located in Venice Family Clinic's Simms/Mann Health and Wellness Center on 2509 Pico Boulevard and features six operatories, an x-ray room, and a laboratory with room for a second staff dentist and dental volunteers. This 1,800 square feet addition doubles Venice Family Clinic's capacity to provide dental care—a type of care that fully one-fifth of

Angelenos cannot afford. Dental care is the most urgent unmet health need among people who have low incomes and are uninsured.

Venice Family Clinic started its dental program in late 2007. At first, the staff dentist worked out of spare chairs at local dental offices and later dental services were provided from mobile dental chairs at two of the Clinic's locations.

The dental clinic is projected to serve 1,500 patients through about 5,600 dental visits annually. In addition, its location within Venice Family Clinic's Simms/Mann Health and Wellness Center enables patients to receive more health services in a single location.

Venice Family Clinic operates nine sites in Venice, Santa Monica, Mar Vista, and Culver City.

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About Venice Family Clinic

Venice Family Clinic's mission is to provide free, quality health care to people in need. Established in 1970 by founder Phillip Rossman, MD, and co-founder Mayer B. Davidson, MD, the Clinic has grown from a small storefront operation into the largest free clinic in the country. With the help of more than 2,000 volunteers, including nearly 500 physicians, Venice Family Clinic provides a medical home for over 24,400 patients through nine sites in Venice, Santa Monica, Mar Vista, and Culver City. For more information, please visit www.venicefamilyclinic.org.



Photo 1 – From Left to Right Jane Harman, Venice Family Clinic Co-founder Dr. Mayer B. Davidson (second row), Dr. Nicole Thompson-Marvel, Dr. Uri Herscher, and Venice Family Clinic's Chief Executive Officer Elizabeth Benson Forer at the Ruth Ziegler and Jack Skirball Dental Clinic Opening Celebration.



Photo 2 – From Left to Right Dr. Uri Herscher, Venice Family's Clinic Chief Executive Officer Elizabeth Benson Forer, and Jane Harman stand in the hallway of the new Ruth Ziegler and Jack Skirball Dental Clinic at Venice Family Clinic.